

# CITY 1



President Clinton gives State of the Union Address

## MLK breakfast message emphasizes economic development in new century

By Jean H. Pierre  
Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD - It may have been rainy and dreary outside, but inside Plainfield High School it was full of sunshine as more than 600 people jammed the auditorium for the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast and Celebration program on January 18. "I've been living in Jersey City and they do a few things here and there, but I've never seen anything like this," said Scott Taylor, a substitute teacher for the Jersey City Public School System. "It's like attending Sunday service and getting that good family feeling."

The festivities began with a laid out self-serve breakfast in the school cafeteria sponsored by the Police Community Athletic League and Frontiers International, which organized the event. Once the breakfast concluded, spectators did a reenactment of the Freedom Trail that Dr. King led from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 to the auditorium. "This brought back a lot of memories for me... painful but good memories in what Dr. King wanted to do for us," said Mattie Allen-Haskins, who took part in the march against the persistent church bombings and racial

upheaval in the region 34 years ago. "None of this here wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the courage of Dr. King," said Haskins. "I'm honored to have been apart of it and to have known him."

The event featured songs and dances by the Plainfield High School Arts Department. Several community and academic awards such as Frontier International Scholarships were presented to two of Plainfield's brightest students: Crystal Marsh and Tamika Stenbridge. Many of New Jersey's political and religious contingent took to the podium to give their stories of Dr. King and his work, including Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-NJ 17th District) who spoke of the importance of yesterday and how far we have come to be treated as equal. "Everyone including Corporate America has finally realized the power we have economically and politically," said Green to the audience. "Not only did we turn out in polls, but we turned out in the community as well. We do have potential all over the state."

The main attraction at the celebration was keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Gerald Lamont Thomas Ph.D., pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, who moved the audience with his fire and energy in urging



Rev. Dr. Gerald Lamont Thomas

the audience to continue the "Dream" in the next millennium especially when it comes to economics. "We must learn to accept change. It's time for personal redemption in the community and ourselves. It is time we start learning to own our own," said Thomas. Corey Parker caught the dream who came from Newark to attend the emotional celebration. The eight-year-old aspired to do something similar to Dr. King. "I want to make sure that every kid around is fed. In my school they talk about sharing. Why not?"

He even talked about the movement to advance democracy.

Cotton stated she is disturbed when she hears people say that seeping has changed because it evidences that they are not aware of the separate water fountains that used to exist, or when blacks were forced to sit at the back of the bus or when blacks were physically tortured while trying to protest the unjust system.

On Monday, blacks from all walks of life, at parades and prayer breakfasts, at work or at home, said it was particularly painful for them to watch the Senate trial.

"I think black Americans have a lot at stake if President Clinton is impeached," said Alicia Burbank, a 31-year-old home-maker and mother from New Orleans. "It doesn't take a brain scientist to figure out that these are a bunch of right-wing conservatives trying to get a liberal Democrat out of the White House by any means necessary."

Mikel Holt, editor of the Milwaukee Community Journal, a black newspaper, agreed. "If Clinton is removed from office, that's a slap in the face for black America," said Holt. "That's in essence, derailing the civil rights freedom train."

Clinton has long enjoyed black support, both from the public and in Congress, because he socializes and prays with black people, appoints them to high positions and understands the struggle of racism, blacks said.

Some even summoned King's name and message in Clinton's defense saying the two men shared a common dream of equality.

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Jackson specifically mentioned Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, who was recently linked by some to an ultra-conservative group accused of promoting white supremacy. Lott denied last week that he was affiliated with the group and said he is opposed to racism and white supremacy.

Richard Bailey, a historian and author from Montgomery,

## Highlights of Clinton's State of the Union Address

WASHINGTON - My fellow Americans, I stand before you to report on the state of our nation. It is strong. America is working again. The promise of our future is limitless. But we cannot realize that promise if we allow the hum of our prosperity to lull us into complacency. How we fare as a nation far into the 21st Century depends upon what we do as a nation today.

So with our budget surplus growing, our economy expanding, our confidence rising, now is the moment for this generation to meet our historic responsibility to the 21st Century. Let's get to work.

Our fiscal discipline gives us an unparalleled opportunity to address a remarkable new challenge: the aging of America.

With the number of elderly Americans set to double by 2030, the Baby Boom will become a Senior Boom. So first and above all, we must save Social Security for the 21st Century. Last year we wisely reserved all of the surplus until we knew what it would take to save Social Security. Again I say we should not spend any of it until after the Social Security is truly saved.

Our children are doing better in schools. SAT scores are up. Math scores have risen in nearly all grades. But there is a problem. While our fourth graders surpass their peers in other countries in math and science our eighth graders

are around average and our twelfth graders rank near the bottom.

We must do better. Each year the national government receives more than \$15 billion in our public schools. I believe we must change the way we invest that money to support what works and to stop supporting what doesn't. Later this year, I will send Congress a plan for the first time holds states and school districts accountable for progress and rewards them for results.

We must also create a freer and fairer trading system for the 21st Century. Trade has divided Americans for too long. We must find the common ground on which business, workers, farmers, environmentalists and government can stand together.

We must tear down barriers, open markets, and expand trade. At the same time, we must ensure that ordinary citizens in all countries benefit from trade — pressing for trade that promotes the dignity of work, the rights of workers, the protection of the environment, and we must insist that international trade organizations be open to public scrutiny.

Tonight, I also issue a call to the nations of the world to join the United States in a new round of global negotiations to expand exports of services, of manufactures, and most of all, farm products.

It is time to reverse the decline in defense spending that began in 1985.

Jersey City - Continuing the people's movement of the sixties, Dorothy Cotton, challenges citizens to advance democracy in the United States. Cotton, founder of the National Citizenship School and the only female executive member of Dr. Martin Luther King's staff, was the keynote speaker at the 10th Annual Dr. King Scholarship Luncheon at New Jersey City University on Jan. 20, 1999.

This lively spirited and humorous speaker embraced her audience as she shared some of the heretofore existing apartheid system in America. She also stated the progressive strides that citizens made to change the world.

"One thing that I want to underscore as we commemorate Dr. King's life and legacy," stated Cotton, "and I want to emphasize the fact that I loved Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but he didn't make the movement by himself. I often feel sad that we don't lift up all the groups, the underdogs, the people, some names you would never even know...but the movement would not have happened without the masses of people who heard the calling."

Individual and collective responsibility makes everyone a contributor to change in society. Cotton stated that citizens disempower themselves when they so deny individuals that they think they don't have the potential to do anything. She stated preparation, courage, talent, skill development, and the desire to put truth into action are what we need to empower anyone to advance democracy.

"Human beings made a mess of things and we can also solve them,"

Since April, together we have added nearly \$6 billion to maintain our readiness. My balanced budget calls for a substantial increase in the next year for readiness and modernization, and pay and benefits for our troops, and sustained increases over the next six years.

We are the heirs of a legacy of bravery represented by millions of veterans. America's defenders today stand ready at a moment's notice to go where comforts are few and dangers are many, doing what needs to be done as no one else can. They always come through for America. We must come through for them.

I propose a 21st Century Crime Bill to deploy the latest technologies and tactics to make our communities even safer. My balanced budget will help put up to 50,000 more police on the beat in the areas hardest hit by crime, and to equip them with new tools, from crime-mapping computers to digital mug shots.

We must break the deadly cycle of drugs and crime. My budget expands support for drug testing and treatment. Whether our ancestors came here on the Mayflower or on slave ships, whether they landed on Ellis Island or at Los Angeles Airport, whether they arrived yesterday or walked this land a thousand years ago — we can be, and we must be, One America. We have no greater obligation to the 21st Century.

Dorothy Cotton Civil Rights leader commemorates the peoples movement



Dorothy Cotton

The political, civil, academic, economic and other institutions were changed and continue to change through the work of the people. "One thing that I want to underscore as we commemorate Dr. King's life and legacy," stated Cotton, "and I want to emphasize the fact that I loved Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but he didn't make the movement by himself. I often feel sad that we don't lift up all the groups, the underdogs, the people, some names you would never even know...but the movement would not have happened without the masses of people who heard the calling."

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"Human beings made a mess of things and we can also solve them,"

stated Cotton. "If you don't do what you can then that particular thing will never get done. Whether it's putting your arm around a child who's never been loved or seeing that a few children have shoes and coats and that there's no child that left behind...if we can catch the dream of Martin Luther King and create our own dreams then we become conscious of the fact that we can build up a new world."

This vibrant activist closed her speech with a strong, soulful Southern voice, drawing the mass of people who attended the luncheon in a spiritual song of Jacob's Ladder. The verses, build up a new world and stay strong, rang through the room. In memory of Dr. King's legacy the luncheon honored NAACP's sophomores, Judith Gibbs, media major with a 3.81 grade point average and Nathalie Ricci, International Business major with a 3.88 grade point average. The community member, recipient was awarded to Dr. Anneke Pirn Simons, co-founder of the Genesis Project which ministers to the homeless and near-homeless poor.

Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams, acting director of Lee's African American Studies Center, brought Cotton to Jersey City so she may be an inspiration to citizens and the dream of Dr. King. Ellis-Williams also encouraged citizens to take action and to look in the mirror for leadership. "We tend to focus so much on stupid accomplishments that we don't see the impact of group dynamics," stated Ellis-Williams, "if we had that then we would be a lot better. We would have to value our brothers and sisters because they are important to our liberation."

The luncheon called people to challenge and confront the challenges and obstacles of society.

"It's about the same for everybody," said Millard Johnson, 58, a maintenance man at a downtown Cleveland. "Congress just doesn't have any business fooling with the man."

Others said Clinton is getting exactly what he deserves, and that race is irrelevant. "It appears the president lied and the Senate will do what it has to do," said Alex Mitchell, 20, a student in Lincoln, Neb.

## Stamp honors Malcolm X

"Malcolm X has earned a prominent place in our history books and in the heart of the nation." - By family of Malcolm X agent

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - CMG Worldwide, the Indianapolis-based leader in protecting and marketing famous names and the United States Postal Service along with the six daughters of Malcolm X and his late wife, Dr. Betty Shabazz, unveiled the Malcolm X commemorative stamp as New York's Rockwell Art Theater on Jan. 20, 1999.



MALCOLM X

WASHINGTON (AP) - With the impeachment trial of President Clinton entering its second week, many blacks spent Martin Luther King Day asking whether the proceedings prove that any man embraced by their community is doomed. "Everybody that I know that is black thinks that if he wouldn't have employed so many black folks and passed so many laws that benefited them, this wouldn't be much of an issue," Armon Henry, an Atlanta business owner, said Monday at the Martin Luther King Day parade in the neighborhood where the slain civil rights leader grew up. "Clinton really is the first black presi-

dent we've had."

Hundreds of miles away, Victoria Mares Hersey had a similar sentiment. "My question is, are they really hounding him for his personal transgressions, or (to punish) him for making his administration the most diverse that the country's ever known?" said Hersey, vice president of the NAACP in Portland, Maine. "That, to me, seems the undertone."

Many blacks have praised Clinton for his urban policy, focus on race relations and record number of black federal appointments — and have rewarded him with their support.

A poll taken after the release of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report last September

showed that blacks were more supportive of the president than whites.

In Congress, black legislators have followed suit. All but six members of the Congressional Black Caucus opposed releasing Starr's report, and the entire caucus rose to his defense when the House considered impeaching him.

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# Community Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

**CLARK** — The Clark Public Library will hold a board of trustees meeting at the Ayers Community Room of the Clark Public Library beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 388-5999.

**JERSEY CITY** — New Jersey City University (NJCU) presents a lecture on race with guest speaker Dr. Edgna Glavin at the Student Center beginning at 12 p.m. (201) 200-3426.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**

**STONE HARBOR** — Westlands Institute presents a conference on the state of our drinking water beginning at 12:30 p.m. (609) 368-1211.

**ELIZABETH** — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will hold a public meeting at the Administration Building beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 527-4140.

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will hold a discussion on economic development in the city beginning at 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3508.

**JERSEY CITY** — New Jersey City University (NJCU) presents an art exhibit featuring the works of Barbara Yeterian at the Courtney Gallery beginning at 11 a.m. (201) 200-3426.

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The Mother's Center of Central New Jersey presents a workshop on preschools at the Scotch Plains Public Library beginning at 8 p.m. (908) 322-7963.

**GARWOOD** — Women for Women of Union County will host a support group meeting for women going through divorce at their Garwood location beginning at 7:30 p.m. (908) 232-5737.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

**JAMESBURG** — Singles Faces Inc. presents a singles function at Forsgate Country Club beginning at 9 p.m. (732) 747-0200.

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center will host a birthday party for those born in January beginning at 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3508.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30**

**JERSEY CITY** — New Jersey City University will offer non-credit courses in Spanish beginning at 10 a.m. (201) 200-3426.

**CRANFORD** — Union County College presents open registration for spring semester beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 709-7503.

**WESTFIELD** — The Washington Rock Girl Scouts and Barnes & Noble presents a book fair at the Barnes & Noble store in Springfield beginning at 11 a.m. (908) 232-3236.

**NEW YORK** — The Museum of the City of New York presents an exhibition of New York rebuild neighborhoods during the 1930s. Call (212) 534-1672 for time.

**WAYNE** — William Paterson University presents an exhibit of African artifacts at the Ben Shahin Galleries located on the campus of William Paterson University beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 720-2654.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**SPRINGFIELD** — Zany Brainy Center will hold craft fair for preschool kids beginning at 10:30 a.m. (973) 467-9444.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**ELIZABETH** — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will hold its town meeting at the Administration Building beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 527-4140.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**SEA BRIGHT** — Singles Faces Inc. will host a singles function at McLOONES Restaurant beginning at 9 p.m. (732) 942-2894.

**SPRING LAKE** — McLaughlin Associates Corporation presents the 10th Annual Garden State Home Show at the Garden State Convention Center in Somerset beginning at 1 p.m. (732) 449-4004.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**SADDLE BROOK** — Single Faces Inc. will host a singles function at the Saddle Brook Marriott beginning at 9 p.m. (201) 643-9500.

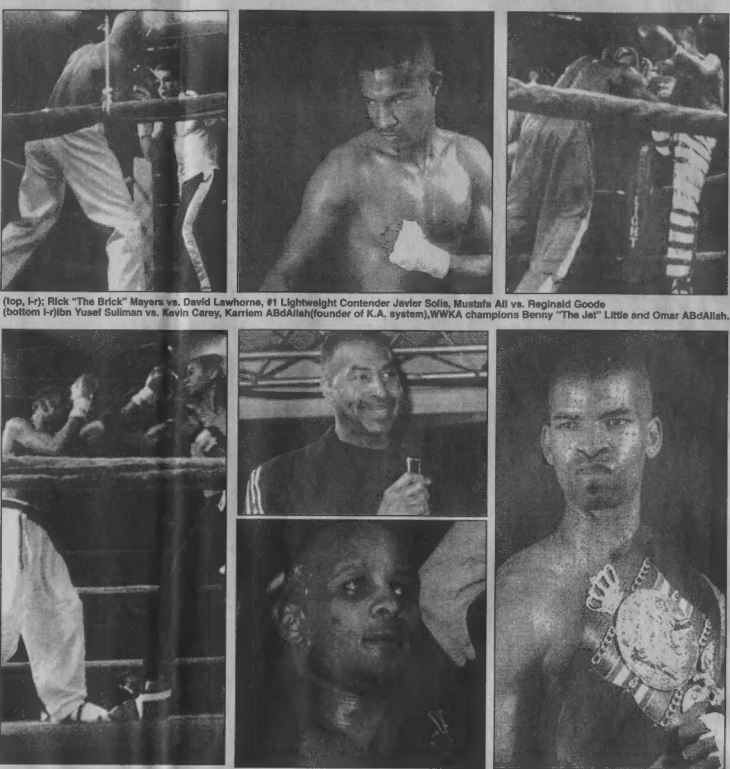
**NEWARK** — The Newark Museum presents the play I Have a Dream performed by the Philadelphia Theatre Caravan beginning at 2 p.m. (973) 596-0550.

**TRENTON** — The New Jersey State Museum presents a planetarium exhibit of space in the 21st Century beginning at 10 a.m. (609) 292-6303.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

**JERSEY CITY** — New Jersey City University presents a lecture on interracial problems in America beginning at 12 p.m. (201) 200-3426.

## Karriem Abdallah together with Coors Light and Mountain Dew presented Hard point Karate championship



(top, l-r): Rick "The Brick" Meyers vs. David Lawhorne, #1 Lightweight Contender Javier Solis, Mustafa Ali vs. Reginald Goode (bottom l-r) Jibn Yusef Suliman vs. Kevin Carey, Karriem Abdallah (founder of K.A. system), WWKA champions Benry "The Jet" Little and Omar Abdallah.

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The Jersey City Police Department (JCPD) seeks qualified candidates of all ethnic backgrounds for challenging, high-paying entry level police officer positions. To apply for the JCPD you must be:

- ☒ A Jersey City resident 18-35 years old
- ☒ A United States citizen
- ☒ A high school graduate or equivalent (no college necessary)

Pick up your application today at any Jersey City Police Station, your local library or City Hall. The application fee is \$25 (but qualified candidates can receive scholarship assistance). Free test preparation sessions will be available for anyone interested.

**Applications are due no later than February 28, 1999.**

For more information, call the Jersey City Police Academy at (201) 547-5706. Be sure to leave your name, address, and phone number.

**Apply to the Jersey City Police Department Today!**

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## Nation Briefs

### ETHIOPIA GOES FROM FAMINE TO BUMPER HARVESTS

NAIROBI — Ethiopians, for years were victims of a devastating cycle of drought and famine, but that starvation will now be a thing of the past. United Nations agencies have predicted a near record crop harvest for 1999, making it the seventh successive year of abundant food production.

A joint World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mission report projected that cereal and pulse yields would reach 11.6 million tons by mid-year. That figure is up nearly 36 percent from 1998's relatively poor harvest, but slightly less than the record 1996 crop that brought in more than 13 million tons of food and grain.

"Ethiopia has made a turn-around from the life threatening famine of the 1980s. What we see is a new drive to achieve food security," said Judith Lewis, the local WFP representative.

More than one million people died of hunger in Ethiopia between 1984 and 1990. — Judith Acheng'

### RWANDA'S 'POPULAR BANKS' HOLD NEW APPEAL FOR RESIDENTS

KIGALI (IPS) — After being nearly run into the ground by poor management and the loss of the country's civil war, Rwanda's rural-based "popular banks" are making a comeback.

The banks are starting to regain popularity among rural Rwandans and non-governmental groups, reviving them from their state of decline. Jean Bayezana, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives and chairman of the Popular Bank Ecological Board, said that Rwandans need to be advised on how to acquire and manage loans for community-based projects.

"Otherwise, the banks will not break with the tradition of providing loans to the rich residing in the city to the detriment of the rural areas where the money comes from," he said.

Rwanda's popular banks, founded in 1975, were modeled after the Swiss cooperative banks and intended to assist people living in rural areas and small towns. — Jean Baptiste Kanyamba

### TEXAS LEADS NATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

By Simon Booker Muhammad

(NNPA) — The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has been charged with civil rights violations by Texas United and the Sierra Club for failing to protect minorities and the poor from pollution. The groups recently filed a complaint with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) charging the TNRCC with "concurrent and systematic discriminatory conduct to deny minorities, including people of color and low-income communities, equal protection of the law."

The environmental groups say that the TNRCC's actions violate Executive Order on environmental justice, which requires that federal programs and federally funded projects not be allowed to increase "the disproportionate burdens of environmental hazards in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods."

EPA will investigate and make a determination on the complaint. We don't believe we did anything to discriminate against anyone," said TNRCC spokesman Patrick Shaughnessy.

### MALAWI FACES AN AIDS CRISIS

LILONGWE (IPS) — AIDS is the most critical challenge to Malawi's development with at least 25 percent of the urban workforce likely to die from the disease in the next 10 years according to a new study conducted by the Malawi government and the World Bank.

Malawi, with a population of 12 million people, reported its first AIDS case in 1985. By the end of 1997, nearly one million Malawians had tested positive for HIV.

According to the National AIDS Control Program, two million Malawians had tested HIV positive by the year 2010.

"The epidemic has now reached crisis proportions," says Health Minister Thomas "Prody" Banda. "The growth of the labor force will fall, while health expenditure will increase."

The estimated financial cost of caring for AIDS patients until they die is between \$200-\$900, almost four times the country's per capita income, and much higher than the per capita health budget. — Hazweli Kanye

## Students lend a hand in Honduras during the holidays

WINSTON - SALEM, NC — Tim Schwartz, a senior from Basking Ridge, NJ is among eleven Wake Forest University students who shared the holiday spirit by spending 10 days of their winter break volunteering in Honduras. As part of the Honduras Outreach Project and Exchange (H.O.P.E.) School Program, the students and one faculty leader departed for Honduras right after the end of the semester. They arrived at the Tegucigalpa International Airport on Jan. 2. They traveled to the Agalta Valley, a remote mountainous region with an average annual family income of \$400. Working beside the villagers, the students helped the Hondurans rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Mitch. The students returned on Jan. 11 in time for to begin their spring semester classes.

"It was neat to see huge craters and volcanoes in the world, mostly Latin America," stated Schwartz. "We've unpacked the aid from these crates

and brought it out to the villages. It was fun for me to see what 'aid' means in real life."

Schwartz, who doesn't speak a word of Spanish, started the trip to the third world country really had an effect on him. The economics major said he may even consider third world development as a career path for the future.

This is the second year a Wake Forest group went to Honduras during the holiday break. The students worked together with villagers to dig latrines, build additions to houses, repair roofs and assist with other projects.

The purpose of the trip is to "further the spirit of volunteerism in Wake Forest students," according to Paige Wilkuba, Wake Forest's coordinator of volunteer services. "Through this experience, students will return to the U.S. with a greater understanding of poverty and Third World culture."



One of the homes in Honduras damaged by the storm.

Schwartz definitely returned with that appreciation after seeing houses swallowed up by mud. "I think we feel pretty optimistic about Honduras," stated Schwartz. "Even before the hurri-

cane, the country wasn't in the best economic shape. However, the people there were still optimistic."

One of the new measures, U.S. citizens will be able to send more money to Cuban families and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Washington will support more scientific, educational, religious and athletic exchanges. And, the number of direct flights to the island for Cuban-Americans who wish to depart from cities other than Miami will be expanded. If Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro agrees, direct mail service between the two countries will also resume.

"Taken together," said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, "these measures" constitute a major advance in our effort to reach out to the Cuban people."

However, the Clinton administration has rejected growing calls from U.S. business and humanitarian communities to exempt food and medicine from the trade embargo against Cuba.

The White House also declined to sponsor a bipartisan commission to undertake the first comprehensive

review of U.S. policy toward the island since the early 1960s.

"These steps are extremely timid," said Wayne Smith, an analyst at the Center for International Policy who served as the head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana in the early 1980s. "Anyone who was hoping that the administration would support a really serious review of the basic policy will have to be deeply disappointed."

The new measures also include allowing any U.S. resident — not only those with families in Cuba, as the current policy requires — to send up to \$1,200 a year to any Cuban family or NGO.

Cubans now receive about \$1 billion annually in remittances from the United States, and Smith told IPS he believed this new provision could increase the amount by another \$500 million a year.

The administration will also authorize the sale of food and agricultural technology to NGOs and "Cuba's emerging private sector, such as family restaurants and private farmers."

Finally, it will negotiate with Havana over resuming direct mail service between the two countries.

"These steps are designed to help the Cuban people without strengthening the Cuban government," Clinton said in a written statement issued by the White House.

## Gore seeks \$663 million for civil rights enforcement

Washington, DC — Vice President Gore announced that the Clinton-Gore Administration will seek \$663 million for civil rights enforcement, a 15 percent increase over last year's funding levels.

"I am proud to announce today that as part of the balanced budget we will be increasing the next fiscal year we are proposing to invest \$663 million for civil rights enforcement," Vice President Gore said. "These funds will be used to support a wide range of programs, such as job training, a home, or an education because of their race, color, creed, gender, or religion; instead we will help ensure equal opportunity for all Americans."

Specifically, the Vice President announced today:

Increased Funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The Administration's 2000 budget provides \$312 million for the EEOC, 12 percent more than the enacted 1999 budget. Funds will go to support, among other things, the agency's effort to reduce the \$500 of private sector cases to 28,000 by the end of 2000, though a combination of investments in information technology, increased use of mediation, and increased staffing.

Increased Funding for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. The President's 2000 budget provides \$382 million, a 10 percent increase over the 1999 enacted level of \$349 million. This represents the largest increase for the Civil Rights Division in nine years. The proposed funding will permit the Department of Justice to significantly expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct), fair housing and lending cases, and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This increase will also allow the Division to prepare for the review, required by the Voting Rights Act, of numerous redistricting plans that will follow the 2000 Census, and to obtain necessary technology improvements.

Funding for Civil Rights Enforcement Partnerships at the Department of Justice. State attorneys general have a vital role to play as partners in eliminating discrimination through civil rights enforcement. The President's Budget proposes \$5 million for the Civil Rights Enforcement Partnerships, which will provide competitive grants to help build the capacity of states to address specific enforcement issues within their jurisdictions by hiring additional staff.

Increased Funding for the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).

The Administration's budget requests \$76 million for OFCCP - an \$11 million or 17% increase over the FY 1999 enacted level. The increase includes funds to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through on-site outreach, education, and technical assistance, including providing contractors with Increased Funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Fair Housing Initiatives.

The Administration's budget proposes \$47 million, or an over 17 percent increase from last year, for HUD's efforts to reduce housing discrimination. The budget requests \$27 million, a 15 percent increase, for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which provides funding to private fair housing groups to assist in enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. This includes \$7.5 million to fund the second year of a three-year audit-based enforcement initiative. The Administration proposal also includes \$20 million, a 21 percent increase, for the Fair Housing Assistance Program, to support the creation of additional State and local housing organizations to meet the needs of currently underserved populations and to aid joint investigations and enforcement activities.

Increased Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights. The President's budget proposal increases funding for USDA's civil rights programs from \$16 million to \$19 million. USDA's civil rights programs will continue to work with State Educational Agencies to address statewide compliance with civil rights laws, fund a comprehensive demographic survey of the universe of elementary and secondary public school districts, and keep pace with increased customer and stakeholder expectations for information and involvement in civil rights problem solving.

Increased Funding for the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

The President's budget proposal of \$73 million provides an increase of \$7 million over the 1999 enacted budget to fund staff training and technological improvements to ensure the resolution of Title IX cases. The increase in funds will enable OCR to work with State Educational Agencies to address statewide compliance with civil rights laws, fund a comprehensive demographic survey of the universe of elementary and secondary public school districts, and keep pace with increased customer and stakeholder expectations for information and involvement in civil rights problem solving.

Increased Funding for the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).

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State attorneys general have a vital role to play as partners in eliminating discrimination through civil rights enforcement. The President's Budget proposes \$5 million for the Civil Rights Enforcement Partnerships, which will provide competitive grants to help build the capacity of states to address specific enforcement issues within their jurisdictions by hiring additional staff.

Increased Funding for the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).

## Farmers settle one of largest racial discrimination cases in history

By Michael J. Roeborn

(NNPA) — In an unprecedented move that many people deem "too late, too late," a federal judge tentatively approved an agreement requiring the U.S. State Department of Agriculture (USDA) to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to Black farmers who claim they were denied government loans and other subsidies solely based on their race.

Under the agreement, as many as 3,000 Black farmers will share \$375 million. It is one of the largest racial discrimination settlements in federal history. In the end, the agreement could cost the federal government over \$400 million, depending on the number of farmers who come forward with claims.

The agreement, approved earlier this week, settles a class action lawsuit filed in 1997 by more than 100 African-American farmers. It is believed to be the first time the federal government has agreed to compensate them for a racial bias that the farmers say has been in effect for years.

The farmers will be allocated a tax-free payment of \$50,000 each. The settlement is expected to be finalized by the end of the year. The farmers will be allocated a tax-free payment of \$50,000 each. The settlement is expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

"It is an agreement that will close a painful chapter in the USDA's history

and open a more constructive front in our efforts to see this department emerge as the federal civil rights leader in the 21st century," Clickman said. "We do not admit or deny any of the specific allegations in the lawsuit, but the fact that we are settling with a significant amount of money does indicate that we believe there is substantial liability."

Many Black agriculture experts say the settlement comes too late to reach the large number of struggling farmers who have come under penalty during the '90s. Black-owned farms have folded at three times the rate of their white counterparts, and African Americans now account for less than one percent of the nation's farmers.

They have alleged that for years they have been denied government aid while white farmers have received federal funds virtually hassle-free. And, when they have been granted loans or subsidies, the amounts awarded to them have been substantially smaller.

Reginald Ward, a farmer from northeast Louisiana, doesn't expect the settlement to have much impact on his ability to make a living as a farmer.

"It's a whole lot too late, and the way the lawyers were talking, [litigation] could've gone on for years if we didn't take this deal," said Ward, a farmer who has watched his 1,500-acre farm divide down to all of 170 acres.

"I can pay off some expenses with the \$50,000, but it really won't help me to save my land."

## African nations expected to lift sanctions against Burundi

By Sukhdar Chhatbar

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Leaders from east and central Africa meeting next week in Tanzania are expected to discuss lifting sanctions they imposed on Burundi 30 months ago, an official said.

Yusef Mwaeni of the Mwami Nyirere Foundation, which has been mediating peace talks on Burundi, said heads of state from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Zambia and Rwanda have been invited to the Jan. 23 summit in Arusha in northern Tanzania.

Burundi President Maj. Pierre Buyoya also has been invited. Mwaeni said former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who has been mediating the talks, will present a report on Burundi's compliance with demands made by the nations imposing the sanctions.

He did not reveal the conclusions of the report, but it is widely believed that Nyerere will call for at least a partial lifting of the sanctions imposed on Burundi over the past 30 months.

At the time, Buyoya, a Tutsi, claimed the action was necessary to stand the bloodshed that had been tearing the tiny central African nation apart since October 1993, when Tutsi paramilitaries killed the country's first democratically elected president, a Hutu, in a botched coup attempt.

But Burundi's neighbors slapped on economic and trade sanctions to force the Hutus to negotiate with Hutu rebels and restore democratic institutions.

The United Nations Security Council has called for a lifting of the sanctions, saying that Buyoya's government has met the conditions and has entered into peace talks with rebels.

An estimated 200,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in violence in Burundi since October 1993.

Tutsis, who represent about 14 percent of the country's 6 million people, have controlled Burundi since independence in 1962 despite the fact that Hutus make up about 85 percent of the population.

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### THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

**NEWARK** — The Regional Business Partnership and the Commerce & Industry Association of NJ will hold a business dinner at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) Theater Square Grill beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 242-6237.

**ORANGE** — The Omni Corporation will hold a business seminar on life insurance at their offices beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 674-0050.

**MONTCLAIR** — The Montclair Chamber of Commerce will hold a discussion on home mortgages in Montclair beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 744-7680.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

**PRINCETON** — The New Jersey Technical Council presents the New Jersey Capital Conference '99 at the NJHA Conference Center beginning at 8 a.m. (609) 452-1007.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

**JAMESBURG** — The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce will hold the 60th Annual Walk to Washington & Congressional Dinner. Call (609) 969-7898 for information and time.

**ELIZABETH** — Learn important basic concepts and be provided information on how Microsoft Windows '98 is used in the real world. This course will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Union County College, Elizabeth's Campus. To register, call (908) 709-7820.

**GRANFORD** — A course on "Introduction to Computers" will be held at Union County College, Cranford's Campus from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Jan. 30. To register, call (908) 709-7600.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**EAST ORANGE** — The East Orange Chamber of Commerce will hold a lecture on business financing in the 21st Century at their location beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 674-0900.

**EDISON** — The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners will hold a pre-meeting workshop at the Clarion Hotel beginning at 5 p.m. (732) 851-1495.

**MONTCLAIR** — The Montclair Chamber of Commerce will hold a lecture on the status of small business in the town at their location beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 744-7680.

## Trio from New York brings food from the soul

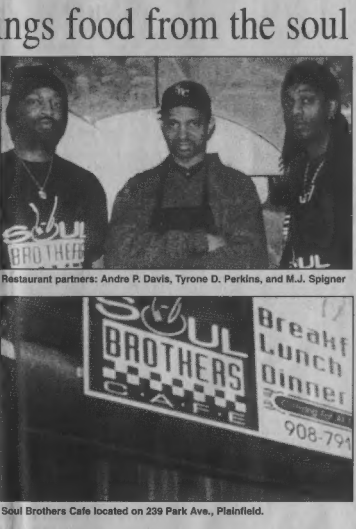
By Shonda Laws and Lucy Sanchez

PLAINFIELD — If you're walking down Park Avenue the smell of collard greens, fried chicken and macaroni and cheese will draw you to the doors of the "Soul Brothers Cafe." This family owned business has been thriving for over a year now. However, don't expect to see grandma in the kitchen. A trio of young, black, businessmen, who are also cousins, came from New York to bring fresh cooked, healthy food to the people. Their secret ingredients in the food combined with a welcoming ambience are sure to keep people coming.

The family started cooking meals out of their house for family and friends on different occasions. This weekend hustle would leave the men preparing up to 100 meals a night. Eventually, they moved out of their kitchen and to a restaurant on 239 Park Ave., Plainfield.

Andre P. Davis, Tyrone D. Perkins and M.J. Spigner are the owners who turned their dreams into a reality. "This business opened up on faith," stated Davis, "with no outside investors, just with our savings. No bank would loan us the money, and no one had the vision to see it. We did all of the painting, plumbing, and decorating ourselves."

The trio attributes their success to faith and a lot of hard work. When the cousins are not busy cooking they are coordinating events that will bring a little bit of New York to Plainfield. They are promoting events, such as fish-



Restaurant partners: Andre P. Davis, Tyrone D. Perkins, and M.J. Spigner

## Clinton's tax credit hailed as watershed for cities

NEW YORK — The head of the nation's largest nonprofit supporter of community development praised President Clinton's proposed New Markets Tax Credit as a potential watershed in the ongoing battle to attract investment to businesses in inner cities and distressed rural communities.

The New Markets Tax Credit is the most significant proposal for the economic development of distressed urban and rural communities in a generation," said Michael Rubinger, president and CEO of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). "It provides precisely the kind of investment vehicle that entrepreneurs need to pay the enormous potential of these emerging markets."

Rubinger compared the president's proposal to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, which since 1986 has produced one million real homes. "The housing tax credit has proven its viability in drawing private equity capital to low-income areas for affordable housing we can fully expect the New Markets Tax Credit to do the same for economic development."

LISC is the nation's largest support organization of nonprofit community development. Since 1979, LISC has raised nearly \$3 billion for CDCs, which have leveraged those funds to raise an additional \$3.5 billion. CDCs have used those funds to build or rehabilitate nearly 80,000 units of affordable housing and to create 10.3 million square feet of commercial and industrial space.

## Businessman speaks on living the dream

By Carl Chase  
Contributing Writer

EAST ORANGE — Many of the New York area's celebrities spent Martin Luther King Day this year at one or more community events.

Bill Boone, Store Owner

Luther King, Jr. or shopping at the malls, or recovering from Sunday night entertainment fun.

At the other end of the spectrum are the entrepreneurs who mostly spent the day working on their dream.

"It's good to take time off and observe a holiday," said Bill Boone, owner of B.L.B. New Way Grocery. "I think it's a great thing that we can do that. But I think Dr. King spoke up for workers more than for others. He tried to get jobs for people who need them," said Boone, who added that he never lets anyone discourage him from never letting people from other countries succeed in business because they work so long and so hard, he said. "You can't take that away from them. They don't party all weekend; they work 16 hours a day, seven days a week, holidays, Sundays and Saturdays. That's what makes suc-

cess."

He said many blacks are intimidated by such a heavy workload. "I talk to a lot of young people who would like to be entrepreneurs," said Boone. "A lot of kids come by who have that dream. But it's a lot of work. A lot of sacrifice comes with having your own business."

A lot of them are always talking about entrepreneurship, but the financing is not there," said the East Orange businessman, who advises would-be entrepreneurs to start with the Small Business Association, which is located in Newark.

Manager Charlie Boone, Bill's younger brother, said King had a message for black consumers as well. "The foundation of a people is to love God first, family next, and other people," he said, hard at work in the Central Avenue market.

"Every year, we play his tapes and there are other reminders. But there are not really that many people listening to what he said," said the younger Boone, age 53, who calls himself a "saved" man of God. "And we got the idea that because he was a black man, he was only talking to black people. But he was about love in general. The whole point was about coming together as a people as a whole."

But he added that for African Americans, that love should start at home. "Home first, race first, black first. We have problems among ourselves. It all goes back to the home."

He said King taught the world what his parents taught him and his big brother. "That there is more to love than just my own immediate family. If I don't love more than just my family, I'm no better than an un-loved family."

He concluded, "We have to teach our people about love."



President Clinton

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RELIGION  
CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

IRVINGTON — Christian Pentecostal Church will hold bible study beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 388-7000.

MONTCLAIR — Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will hold communion services beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 509-1111.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

ELIZABETH — Mount Zion Pentecostal Church will hold a group meeting on recovering substance abusers beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 351-2170.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS — Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church will hold youth church services beginning at 6:30 p.m. (732) 291-1076.

MONTCLAIR — Mount Carmel Church will hold youth prayer services beginning at 5 p.m. (973) 740-7616.

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## Local organization honors "Men of Valor"

NEWARK — "When he was in school he was neglected and ignored. He didn't learn how to read or write. No one cared about him. No one cared if he came to school or not. So he stopped coming. He dropped out. No one came to see why. Now he can't find or keep a job. He's broke, hungry and angry. Maybe one day, one day soon, you might get to meet him. When he's breaking into your house. Or into your car. And you know what? He's not going to care about you, either." This is a quote from Project Re-Direct, who are working to ensure that no child is left behind.

Project Re-Direct/Youth & Family Services is a non-profit community based organization that is committed to child abuse prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, and the restoration of the family. Working with children and families of the incarcerated and developing delinquency prevention initiatives for young urban males are major aspects of this organization.

The partnership of Project Re-Direct with dedicated men who represent all socio-economic communities within the state of New Jersey will help save our youths and their families, who are in desperate need," stated Sharon Berry, founder/President.

Project Re-Direct/Youth & Family Services honored approximately 12 men from the Metro Newark area to central NJ. These men were selected from the corporate, non-profits, business, education and religious community.

According to Ms. Berry, "The men honored share this organization's vision and enhances our mission statement of protecting children, and restoring the family. Young males need to see men of all cultures and ethnic groups working together, being appreciated and honored. These are the best examples possible of the ben-

efits of education, hard work and good citizenship."

(TOP) Awardees posing with plaques; CENTER(L-R): Congressman Donald Payne, New Vision's - Chizon Praise dance group, BOITOM(L-R) Alfred C. Koopie, Sr. Vice Pres. of Corporate Services and External Affairs with Sharon Berry, Pres. and CEO of Project Re-Direct, Nathaniel L. Potts Coordinator of Newark's Education Task Force, Councilman Cory A. Booker, Circulation Manager Shonda Laws, and Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey.

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# HeartBeat

CITY NEWS 7

January 27 - February 2, 1999

## Health Calendar

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will hold a discussion on managing homes and running placement beginning at 12 p.m. (908) 753-3306.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

**TEANECK** — Holy Name Hospital will offer a support group for those suffering from balance disorders at the health service building beginning at 7 p.m. (201) 833-7212.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

**GREENBROOK** — The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home beginning at 4 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for those who suffered from a stroke at the hospital's auditorium 12:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center will discuss home health care for senior citizens in the 21st century beginning at 10 a.m. (908) 753-3306.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**JERSEY CITY** — Liberty Health Care Services (EMS) at Meadowlands Hospital beginning at 7:30 p.m. (201) 324-5000.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**MONTGOMERY** — The Carter Foundation will hold a discussion on depression and substance abuse at Adams Amphitheater at the Carter Foundation in Belle Mead beginning at 1 p.m. (800) 281-1461.

## Muhlenberg vows to fight for cardiac surgery

**PLAINFIELD** — Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Len Fishman has decided not to issue a certificate of need for cardiac surgery to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, despite the medical center's strong application which demonstrates that Central Jersey communities have minority and poor populations who cannot access cardiac surgery services.

"We are appalled by the state's denial of our application, and now to pursue the granting of a cardiac surgery unit until we exhaust all legal remedies," said John P. McGee, president and chief executive officer of Solaris Health System, Muhlenberg's parent company. "We have demonstrated that the residents Central New Jersey are not getting the surgical heart care they need and deserve in this region and that

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center has the will and the resources necessary to provide a quality cardiac surgery service."

Muhlenberg answered the state's call and submitted its application, on July 1 in order to meet the needs of Central Jersey communities for improved access to cardiovascular surgical services, particularly for minority and indigent populations. The state sought these applications because its own study showed that minority and indigent populations in New Jersey are 25 to 35 percent less likely to receive life saving cardiac services: cardiac catheterizations, angioplasty and coronary bypass surgery than white populations and that the 14 existing cardiac surgery centers in the state are not adequately meeting this need for minorities and

indigents.

"There are no cardiac surgery centers in Union County. In the region served by Muhlenberg, people must now travel anywhere from one - two hours to existing centers," explains Howard Senter, MD, chief of Cardiology at Muhlenberg. "The longer the distance to travel, the greater the chance of delays in the referral process. Since every minute can make the difference between life and death when we talk about cardiac care, these delays are crucial to a patient's ability to survive."

Muhlenberg received accolades from members of the State Health Planning Board for the high quality of its application, particularly for the Plan of Access for minority and indigent populations. However, the board voted not to recommend the application to the

Commissioner because, they said, a cardiac surgery site in Plainfield would negatively impact on the existing cardiac surgery programs in Newark by drawing patients from those programs. In reality, Muhlenberg's application had the least impact of all applications because Muhlenberg currently refers its patients to six cardiac surgery centers: Newark Beth Israel and St. Michael's in Newark, Morristown Memorial in Morristown, Robert Wood Johnson in New Brunswick, St. Joseph's in Paterson and Deborah Heart & Lung Center in Browns Mills.

The Commissioner's decision will deny the significant communities of African Americans, Hispanics and Asians within the service area the access they need to high quality cardiac surgery services.

Muhlenberg's Plan of Access not only would provide life-saving cardiac surgical procedures but also develop an extensive community health improvement program with a goal of reducing cardiac disease and detecting developing diseases at an early stage. A recently released study by the federal Department of Health and Human Services showing that death rates from heart disease for black populations is 40 percent higher than for whites spotlights the urgency of the community's needs in the greater Plainfield area.

"We want to reinforce our commitment to meeting our community's need. We are dedicated to pursuing all legal remedies so that we can bring this life-saving service to minority and indigent populations within our service area," McGee concluded.

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## HIV ties to victimization often overlooked

**CHARLESTON, SC** - Effective AIDS prevention and treatment programs for inner city African American women should take account the powerful impact that rape, mugging, and other forms of violence have on those who are HIV-infected, researchers say.

Family Health Project researchers report in the winter Journal of Traumatic Stress that HIV-infected low-income inner-city New Orleans women are two to five times more likely to be the victims of violence than their uninfected counterparts.

Victims reported higher levels of

psychological distress, depression, and greater concern over physical symptoms than non-victimized HIV-infected women, the researchers found.

The study team interviewed 88 HIV-infected women and a comparison group of 148 uninfected women of similar background. Investigation of the impact of victimization, led by Rachel Kimerling, Ph.D., of the University of California-San Francisco, found that two-thirds of the HIV-infected group reported experiencing extreme forms of violent victimization.

"Furthermore, HIV-infected vic-

tims were diagnosed with higher rates of AIDS defining conditions than HIV-infected non-victims," they report. "These results underscore the importance of acknowledging the experience of violent victimization in the prevention and treatment of HIV infection in women."

The study is part of the Family Health Project Research Group's ongoing longitudinal investigation of the relationships between psychological and sociological factors and HIV infection among inner-city African American families.

The rising incidence of HIV infection among inner-city low-

income African Americans appears to be largely mediated by environmental factors such as drugs, crime, poverty, and gender and racial discrimination, the team reports. An HIV-infected woman's ability to hold her own in this environment may be further impaired by depression, they say.

Current prevention interventions for women which primarily target only safe sex skills and behaviors are failing to consider the social context of HIV infection. Acknowledging and addressing the social context, in terms of the presence of high rates of violent victimization of HIV-infected women, is imperative."

## Coronary heart disease on the rise with black women

**North Brunswick** — Cardiovascular diseases, like stroke and heart disease, kill more than 505,000 females every year—more than the next 16 causes of death combined. Close to 16,000 New Jersey women will die this year from heart disease and stroke. Most alarming about this "silent epidemic" among African American women is the toll on African American women. The death rate among African American women for coronary heart disease is 35 percent higher than for white females. African American females have a death rate from stroke or a "brain attack" that is 71 percent higher than that of white females. The American Heart Association "Take Wellness To Heart" Women, Heart Disease and Stroke Campaign urges African American women to become more knowledgeable about heart disease and stroke and their personal risk factors.

The American Heart Association Take Wellness To Heart campaign was launched during 1998 in an effort to improve women's awareness about their risk of heart disease and stroke, and to improve physical awareness of women, heart disease and stroke. African American women are at special risk for cardiovascular disease and should be aware of certain conditions that contribute to heart disease and stroke.

In 1995, the death rate from high blood pressure was 352 percent higher for African American females than for white females.

As much as 20 percent of all deaths in hypertensive African American women may be attributable to high blood pressure.

Among non-Hispanic black women ages 20 and older, 47 percent have blood cholesterol levels over 200 mg/dL, and 20 percent have levels of 240 mg/dL or more.

African American women are among the least active population groups in terms of overall physical activity.

Recent studies show that 66 percent of African American females are overweight or obese.

African American women can reduce their risks of heart disease and stroke by not smoking, controlling their cholesterol levels, controlling high blood pressure, being physically active, maintaining a healthy weight and drinking alcohol only in moderation (one drink per day, unless a woman is pregnant or is planning to have a baby).



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**WOODBIDGE, NEW JERSEY**  
  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority for:  
**A MINORITY BUSINESS SET ASIDE PROCUREMENT**  
  
COMPUTER SUPPLIES  
ON FEBRUARY 11, 1999 AT 3:00 PM  
  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority from vendors qualifying as New Jersey Minority Businesses pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 1083, Chapter 485, N.J.S.A. 52-26.71 et. seq. Only those businesses which meet the requirements and re qualified by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development may submit bid proposals.  
  
Bids for the above will be received in the Division of Central Purchasing on the date(s) and time(s) specified above and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders are required to comply with requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127.  
  
Bid Forms, Specifications, and Terms and Conditions are on file in the Division of Central Purchasing, New Jersey Highway Authority, Garden State Parkway, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095 and may be obtained between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.  
  
Angela Corio  
Director of Central Purchasing  
NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
  
\$ 72.80

**Public Notice Township of Woodbridge Housing Authority Award Professional Contract**  
  
The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey, has awarded the following contract by Resolution under competitive proposals procedures as more fully described at 24CFR 85.36 and PH 90-47 and as "Professional Services" were not required to be bid under New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law. The contracts and resolutions are available for inspection in the Office of the Executive Director, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095-1725.  
  
Resolution #1343 adopted 1/7/99  
Awarded to: William B. O'Neill, C.P.A., 1035 Old Ford Road, Huntington Valley, Pa. 19088  
Services: Independent Auditor  
Sicore: 91 out of possible 100

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**INVITATION TO BID**  
  
Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park will receive sealed bids for the upgrading of elevators at the Luntz Homes A&R Co. Robinson Towers and repairing of elevators at the above locations as well as Cornetack Court. The public bid opening will be held on February 23, 1999 at 1:00 PM at the Modernization Office at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held February 5, 1999 at 10:00 AM at the Modernization Office located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712.  
  
A refundable deposit of \$50.00 payable to The Asbury Park Housing Authority will be required for each set of specs and plans and may be obtained from the Asbury Park Housing Authority Modernization Office at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue.  
  
Bid Bond of 5% is required with your sealed bid. The successful low bidder is required to furnish and pay for a Performance and Payment Bond in the full amount of the bid. All bids are to be Submitted in triplicate (3 sets) all executed with original signatures.  
  
The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in the bidding process and award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder in the Authority's best interest.  
  
No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the written consent of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park.  
  
We encourage minority business and firms to apply.  
  
Claudia Sweeney  
Executive Director  
Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park

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Township of Clark, under direction, receives and responds to telephone or other electronic requests for emergency assistance, including law enforcement, fire, medical, or other emergency aid. Applicants must also be High School or Vocational High School graduates with an approved High School Equivalent Certification. Applicants may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Business Administrator, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07065. All completed applications must be filed directly with the New Jersey Department of Personnel on or before January 29, 1999. Clark is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**HELP WANTED**  
**TOWNSHIP OF CLARK NEW JERSEY**  
  
Police Officer - Township of Clark is seeking applicants for the position of Police Officer. Starting salary is \$23,000.00 per year. Applicants must be at least 18 years old as of January 25, 1999, citizens of the United States and residents of Union County. Applicants must also be High School or Vocational High School graduates with an approved High School Equivalent Certification. Applicants may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Business Administrator, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07065. All completed applications must be filed directly with the New Jersey Department of Personnel on or before January 29, 1999. Clark is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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## Local Briefs

### ARC celebrates 50 years of caring

**PLAINFIELD** — Marking the half-century for any organization is cause for celebration. That is especially true in the case of Arc of Union County. For what began in 1949 as a group of concerned citizens charted a voluntary charter by the New Jersey Parents' Group for Retarded Children, has emerged in 1998 as a recognized leader in providing support, advocacy service and programs annually for 700 people with developmental disabilities and their families. The year-long celebration started with a flag raising ceremony held on Jan. 21, 1999. For more information call (908) 754-7826.

### Tainted drinking water problem in East Orange

**EAST ORANGE** — Lawmakers are calling for Epidemiological Study to determine the scope of health problems stemming from high fecal counts in city water system in East Orange. Assemblyman LeRoy J. Jones Jr. called for a comprehensive state health investigation that would determine whether children, pregnant women, and people with immune deficiencies were harmed by illness-producing bacteria in the City of Orange water supply system. The Dept. of Environmental Protection earlier this month issued a "boil water alert" for the city's water system because of fecal contamination. The warning was lifted about three days later. Jones produced documentation that the city's water supply was beset with contamination problems weeks before the state-issued warning.

### Rice introduces bill to make Urban Enterprise Zones Permanent

**TRENTON** — Senator Ronald L. Rice has introduced a bill to make permanent the state's urban-enterprise zones such as Newark and Elizabeth that have flourished over the past decade. "The Urban Enterprise zone program has been a roaring success," Senator Rice, D-Essex, said after introducing his bill with 12 co-sponsors of both parties. A recent state study found the Urban Enterprise Zone program has created more than 46,000 new jobs and generated enormous benefits for the residents of Newark, Trenton and the other cities that got UEZ's in the mid-'80's."

### "Virtual University" becomes reality for NJIT students

**NEWARK** — Twenty-one employees of Bell Atlantic Network Services Inc. just earned their masters degree at New Jersey Institute of Technology without ever having to step foot on campus.

This group of professionals, based in offices in Silver Spring, Maryland and Freehold, New Jersey, are more than just the most recent addition to NJIT's long list of success stories in distance learning. They're living examples of "New Jersey Virtual University," a new effort by Gov. Christie Whitman to maximize use of distance learning programs offered by New Jersey's public colleges and universities.

### Summit celebrates Centennial...plans a calendar

**SUMMIT** — Area photographers are invited to submit work for a juried photography contest celebrating the city's centennial. "Photographs must celebrate Summit, its neighborhoods, its life, or its people," according to Reagan Burkholder, chair of the contest committee and city administrator. Burkholder is planning the contest with a committee of local professionals and amateur photographers. Photographs must have been taken in Summit — since April 1998. Entries will be accepted during the week of April 12-16 at City Hall in Summit. For further info. Please call (908) 522-3600.

# 'American Prisons: Second Coming of Slavery'

By Lucy Sanchez Staff Writer

**NEWARK** — A woman stood up in tears pleading for advice. A family member of hers was incarcerated and released three days later, never to be the same again. The young man was released with bruises covering his body and injected with medicine prescribed for people suffering from seizures. This medical and physical abuse is one of many horror stories that was shared by the citizens at the "American Prisons: Second Coming of Slavery" forum held on Jan. 15, 1999 at Essex County College.

The public hearing summoned inmates, former inmates, family members and concerned citizens to come together and rally for a just system of prison reform. Even more importantly, they called for a prevention system to hinder the increasing flow of minorities who are incarcerated everyday.

Having your freedom taken away from you is an experience too many African American youth experience today. After spending 20 years behind bars, Omar Shabazz is working at the Prisons Resource Center to prevent others from being subjected to the same type of life he had to live. "I felt the opportunity to tell you about the pain and the suffering that's associated with being

inside the belly of the beast," stated Shabazz. "It's like you have to much debt and so much dehumanization and then to come home to a society where people are literally free and are living like savages."

The speakers discussed oppression vibrant inside of the prison system and even on the very corners of the streets citizens live on. A society corrupt with money and control was explained by many who approached the microphone to speak. Speakers came together to find solutions for what they deemed as a society who invests in the incarceration of African American, Latino and other non-Caucasian youth as targets for modern day slavery.

"You have to understand what prisons really about," said Gary Johnson, of Dept. of Corrections, West Chester County. "It's not a right of passage! It's modern day slavery and youth volunteer for it." Johnson stated that mentoring programs and face to face combat with the drug dealers and corruption in the neighborhoods prevents dealing with the inhumane treatment in the prison system.

"I've come to believe that the criminal justice system in this country works exactly as it was designed to work," said Bonnie Kermess, human rights advocate and MSW Director of American

Friends Service Communications. "The politics of the police, the politics of the prison system, and the politics of the death penalty are a manifestation of the racism and classism. The neo-slavery in prisons today is one of the largest growth industries in the United States and the core of that industry are the bodies of children of color."

A zero tolerance of police brutality, poor nutrition, poor medical care, boredom, isolation and the usage of devices of torture were expressed by the boycotters. They called for a restoration of privileges to allow weekend and daytime visit food packages from home and for 800 phone cards to be given to inmates.

Education was also stated as a prevention method. "One reason for crime is lack of opportunity," stated Michael Chase, Irvington Deputy Police Chief. "We all in here know that there is no justice in America and there is definitely not the same amount of opportunity in America. What we have to do is stress these issues and let people know that there are solutions that everyone could get involved in."

Youth programs such as sports, board games, and achievement programs were solutions that everyone could get involved in.

Cosponsor Zayid Muhammad,

Million Man March organizer stresses education as a method to prevent crime.

Front Line Artists, was fervent about pulling the community together to boycott crime in remembrance of over 150 freedom fighters such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and even members on the panel, who struggled to make a difference. Muhammad stated the seriousness of a counterintelligence act to destroy all freedom fighters. He called for a march on April 26, to fight for the life of Abu-Jamal. "We want you to come out in the name of justice, in the name of human rights, in the name of the right, in the name of freedom fighters and boycott against crime."

## 1998 Shows dramatic rise in library activity

**PLAINFIELD** — End-of-the-year statistics of the Plainfield Public Library reveal a continuing rise in the circulation of all library materials during 1998, topping the 100,000 mark for the first time in a decade. The total of 108,650 transactions reflects a 38% increase since 1994, the start of the Library Director Joseph DaRold's administration.

The dramatic rise in the use of adult materials (10,000 item-increase in one year) is attributed to a variety of factors, including replacement of out-of-date Spanish language books and the increasing popularity of audio books. DaRold also gives high marks to the pro-active efforts of the Library's Circulation Department, which this year conducted an Adult Summer Reading Club and an Essay Contest.

Plainfield Mayor Al McWilliams congratulated the Public Library, commenting that "Plainfielders have always cared very much about reading, as evidenced by having the city's largest municipal library in the state. I am gratified that our residents are availing themselves of our Library's services to such a wide extent."

DaRold reports that the increase in library activity became apparent at the end of the summer, when the Young People's Department reported huge increases in the numbers of children attending the special library programs and enrolled in the Summer Reading Club. The Young People's Department also doubled the number of its evening hours last year, making the library more accessible to families.

Some of the new improvements at the Plainfield Library have led to greater use by the public, especially the availability of computers with access to the Internet. The Library's



The teachers and students of Stillman School on their visit in Oct. 1998.

Reference Department has been one of the busiest sites in the County for job seekers searching the "New Jersey One-Stop Career Center System," an Internet-based service. Thanks to several grants awarded by the New Jersey State Library, free public Internet access will continue to expand in 1999.

Other factors responsible for the library's growth include increased use of the Community Meeting Room; special programs and exhibits throughout the year; and development of the Adult Literacy Program, an affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of America. Four years ago the Plainfield chapter served 60 adult learners, whereas in 1998 over 200 adults improved their literacy skills under the tutelage of nearly 200 volunteers. The library is located between 8th St. and 9th St. & Park Ave. in Plainfield. For additional information call Library Administration at 908-757-2305.

## Plainfield recruits new officers



Plainfield recruits (L-R) Michael Black, Fernando Sanchez and Craig Kennovin Staff Writer

**PLAINFIELD** — In the blistering cold, three young men marched through the snow to be sworn in as the newest recruits on the force on Jan. 14, 1999. In a time when police officers and the youth are forming a polarized relationship it was refreshing to see a multicultural group, who stated they would be committed to mending this recurring problem.

Encouraged by his fathers role in the Civil Rights Movement, Michael Black, 29, stated he was looking forward to the challenge to set a good example for the kids. "But not forgetting where I came from. I can talk to them like a brother and not like a father," said Black, "because I remember I used to be a kid too."

Sergeant Wayne Williams, who did the background investigations of the recruits, stated the training incorporated a lot of new courses to deal with community relation issues, specifically on biased training sensitivity. "Plainfield is an inner-city," stated Williams, "so you have to be able to make that connection. Sometimes we have police officers that don't have familiarizations with the inner city, so its really forcing to them and they have a harder time adjusting to that. Hopefully, the senior officers will be able to lead by example and show the younger ones exactly how you talk to people. It's all about how you communicate. It's the respect and communication, that's the bottom line."

Fernando Sanchez, 20, the youngest recruit, is ready to go out in the community and start making a difference. While growing up in Plainfield, Sanchez looked up to several police officers, such as Lt. Michael Gilliam and Sgt. June Hunter, as his role models. He stated they had a direct influence in his decision to join the

Team Sanchez learned the discipline, respect and endurance it takes to overcome obstacles and to surpass any challenge, even one as great as bringing the police and the community back together as a team.

"I plan on doing a lot of community service work," stated Sanchez, "and getting to know a lot of the people and having them get to know me."

One-by-one Sanchez, Black and Craig Kennovin, 28, repeated an oath to serve and protect the citizens of the community. The Bible was held by each of their mothers as they were inducted into the force and ready to start the physical and academic training that very day.

Gilliam, who will be the physical instructor, stated by the end of the academy the recruits will be able to run up to 12 miles. They will start their morning at 5:30 and spend the first two hours doing physical activities followed by a vigorous, 6 hour college-level academic portion. He stressed the importance of the recruits knowing the law because it protects them and the state. Gilliam described the group diversity as a sign in the right direction for the Plainfield Police Department.

"You have one who is an African-American, a Caucasian and one individual who is Hispanic," stated Gilliam. "It shows the most diverse group of individuals that we have had. Also, the guys seem to be in good physical condition. They are going to be in better physical condition when they come out, but they look to be a good group."

Trained up with diversity and a commitment to the community the recruits were congratulated by attendees Mayor Al McWilliams, former Mayor Harold Mitchell, Assembly Jerry Green, Public Safety Director Michael Lattimore and several others from the police force before they head

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